



Do You Need Help to Pay Health Care Costs?

Where may I get help to pay health care costs?

Medicaid has programs that pay some or all of Medicare's premiums and may also pay Medicare deductibles and coinsurance for certain people who are entitled to Medicare and have a low income. You must have Medicare Hospital Insurance (Part A). If you are not sure if you have Part A, look on your Medicare card (red, white, and blue card). It will show "Hospital Insurance (Part A)" on the lower left corner of the card. You can also call your local Social Security Administration office, or call SSA at 1-800-772-1213.

If you have Part A, your income is limited (see below), and your financial resources

such as bank accounts, stocks, and bonds are not more than \$4,000 for an individual, or \$6,000 for a couple, you may qualify for assistance as a Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB), Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB), or Qualifying Individual (QI).

For more information about these programs, call your State, county, or local medical assistance office. Check your phone directory for the office nearest you. You can find these offices listed under Medicaid, Social Services, Medical Assistance, Public Assistance, Human Services, or Community Services. You may also call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY/TDD: 1-877-486-2048 for the hearing and speech impaired) to find the phone number in your State.

2000 Monthly Income Limit*

	Individual	Couple	Program Pays Medicare's...
QMB	\$716	\$958	Premiums, deductibles, and coinsurance
SLMB	\$855	\$1,145	Monthly Part B premiums
QI-1	\$960	\$1,286	Monthly Part B premiums
QI-2	\$1,238	\$1,661	A small part of the monthly Part B premium

*Slightly higher amounts are allowed in Alaska and Hawaii. Income limits will increase slightly in 2001, and new limits will be available by April 1, 2001. These programs may not be available in Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

Do you or someone you know have children under age 19 that are not covered by health insurance?

There is help! A new State Children's Health Insurance Program is available. To find out how to qualify for the program, you can call the national toll-free number at 1-877-KIDS-NOW (1-877-543-7669). This number will automatically connect you to your State's insurance program for children.

